

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**March 21, 2016**  
**at the Department of Administration,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B,**  
**One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Annette Feldman, Edward Garcia, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Melody Drnach, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Davis-Maxell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Rose Ellen Reynolds

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- Library Hotline, February 29, 2016, Volume 45, No. 8, pgs. 1-2, The Weekly Newsletter from *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*
- Select statistics from the 2016 Talking Books Plus (TBP) Member Survey Summary, prepared for the Library Board of Rhode Island, dated March 21, 2016

**I. WELCOME**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the February 22, 2016 meeting**

The meeting minutes were approved without changes.

**Moved by:** Mr. Garcia

**Seconded by:** Mr. Norris

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

**A. Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) Annual Meeting**

The COLA Annual Meeting will be held on April 12, 2016, at 5 p.m., in the Governor's State Room at the State House. Information about the event is located on the COLA Website, [www.colari.org](http://www.colari.org). The keynote speaker for the event will be the Artistic Director of the Gamm Theatre, Mr. Tony Estrella. The title of Mr. Estrella's presentation is *A Serious House on Serious Earth It Is: Becoming Human Again at your Local Library*. The event coincides with National Library Week sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA).

**B. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)**

NLLD is May 2-3, 2016, in Washington D.C. A delegation of library advocates including members of the Library Board of Rhode Island (LBRI), the Coalition of Library Advocates

(COLA), the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), and School Librarians of Rhode Island (SLRI), will meet with RI congressional members to discuss issues of importance to libraries. The current participant list for the NLLD event includes Mr. Garcia, Ms. Mellor, Ms. Sarah Morenon of SLRI, Ms. Reeves, Ms. Reynolds, and Mr. Viall.

C. Rhode Island Library Association (RILA)

The RILA annual meeting will be held May 25-26 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Information about the event may be found on the RILA website, <http://rilibraries.org/>.

#### **IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

A. OLIS State Data Coordinator

As of March 7, Ms. Lauren Plews is the new OLIS State Data Coordinator. Ms. Plews is preparing annual report data for submission to the Public Library Statistics Cooperative, and will present some key findings at the LBRI meeting on April 11.

B. Talking Books Plus (TBP) Member Survey

The triennial TBP member survey is completed and Ms. Mellor reviewed a handout summarizing survey responses. The TBP program is a service of the Library of Congress. The member survey is a requirement of state libraries that provide services for the blind and visually-impaired through the federal program. OLIS serves 1500 patrons through the TBP program and 100 patrons completed the survey.

C. Regional Delivery Pilot Project

RI academic libraries and the top 20 public libraries that lend out-of-state will participate in expanded delivery service between Rhode Island and libraries in southeastern Massachusetts. The expanded service will result in savings of mailing costs for the participating libraries. The pilot project is possible because Massachusetts and RI use the same delivery vendor, Optima Shipping Systems, Inc., and there is an existing route from RI to Wheaton College, supported by the HELIN library consortium. The Massachusetts Library System will pay for the additional delivery stop to effect this plan. The start date for interstate delivery is April 1, 2016.

D. Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Annual Certification

Ms. DiMichele reported on the LORI Annual Certification process that took place from January 15 – March 15. 183 libraries renewed their certifications and 3 libraries were added to LORI. This was the first year that libraries certified compliance with the new LORI Standards that went into effect on July 1, 2015. Overall, libraries have not had difficulty in complying with the new Standards.

E. Library Construction

In March, Ms. Mellor met with three library directors to discuss their potential applications for public library construction reimbursement: the Libraries of Foster are planning a potential new facility in Foster; Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in Narragansett is

exploring the possibility of retrofitting an existing commercial property to create a new library; and Providence Public Library is planning an extensive renovation to better utilize space in the building and meet the growing technological and space needs of patrons and programs. Other potential projects include Providence Community Library's plans to retrofit a building to create a new library in the Olneyville neighborhood, and the Barrington Public Library's plans for renovating a section of its building.

**F. Rhode Island Library Day**

The Rhode Island Library Association (RILA) is sponsoring Library Day on April 16 as a part of National Library Week. The intent of Library Day is to showcase RI libraries' programs and services. Public libraries will also offer amnesty on that day for patrons to return overdue materials without incurring fines.

Mr. Garcia noted that Rhode Island State Senator Hanna Gallo has crafted a resolution for the RI State Legislature to recognize RI Library Day. He also reported that Cranston Public Library will have free shredding at the Central Library and a free electronic waste (e-waste) dropoff at the William Hall Library. William Hall will also launch their annual Seed Library program on April 16.

**G. American Library Association (ALA) Libraries Transform Campaign**

During the January 2016 mid-winter ALA conference in Boston, ALA kicked-off their "Libraries Transform" public relations campaign. Ms. Mellor shared [ALA's Libraries Transform video](#) with the LBRI. The information will be shared and promoted at the next RI Library Directors meeting.

OLIS is working with the ILL delivery vendor to place magnetic signs on the sides of Optima delivery vans that include the OLIS brand and the "Libraries Transform" logo.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Legislation**

**i. RI House Finance Committee Hearing, Dept. of Administration Budget**

Mr. Garcia reported that the RI House Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on March 22 about the RI Department of Administration (DOA) FY17 budget. The DOA budget includes Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding for public libraries. Mr. Garcia, Ms. Feldman, and Mr. Viall plan to testify about increasing GIA funding to 25% of local funding. To increase GIA funding to 25%, the state would need to add \$1.4M to the current DOA FY17 budget.

**ii. H 7200 Hearing, Statutory Construction**

Ms. Mellor will attend a hearing for H 7200, Statutory Construction on March 23. The bill makes a number of technical changes to Title 29 (Libraries) of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The changes update and correct language as it relates to OLIS and the Library Board of Rhode Island; the changes are technical and non-substantive.

## B. Library Construction Regulations Review

The Library Construction Regulations Review Committee held their second meeting on March 10. The committee will revise and update the existing regulations. The group is also reviewing the application and appendices to the regulations and application to align and streamline the application process.

The committee's goal is to have the revised regulations ready for presentation to the LBRI at the May meeting in preparation for approval at the June meeting. Assuming approval, the public review process would take place in the summer with the goal of filing the regulations as law in September. Ms. DiMichele inquired whether there would be a small business impact from the revised regulations. Ms. Mellor reported that small business impact will be addressed.

## C. Policy Review Committee

Mr. Sloan reported that the Policy Review Committee has not met because of member's time constraints. The committee will report on their efforts at the April meeting.

# VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

## A. Mr. Norris

- i. Mr. Norris reported that Ms. Karisa Tashjian, of Providence Public Library and the Director of the RI Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI), has been selected as a runner up for the national Commission of Adult Basic Education (COABE) [Outstanding Administrator of the Year award](#).
- ii. Mr. Norris reported on the national trend of increased interest in citizenship classes. These classes are taught almost exclusively in public libraries, and would be a good topic for discussion for NLLD day. Mr. Norris teaches classes at William Hall Library and Auburn Branch Library; the classes are at capacity and have waiting lists. Pawtucket Public Library is also offering classes and experiencing an increase in students.

## B. Ms. Reeves

Ms. Reeves reported that the University of Rhode Island (URI) Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) has been granted an extension until 2017 for their accreditation review. GSLIS is currently working on its strategic plan in preparation for accreditation. The URI GSLIS is the only remaining public university in New England that offers a master's degree in library science.

## C. Ms. Feldman

Ms. Feldman reported on a recent small libraries meeting and highlighted local programming partnerships that these libraries have formed in their communities. While fourteen public libraries qualify for the minimum Ocean State Libraries (OSL) annual fee and serve smaller populations, there are twenty-three libraries in the small libraries group. Small libraries are concerned that impact from their programming efforts are minimized because of their size.

#### D. Mr. Sloan

- i. Mr. Sloan inquired about the tardiness of the state's grant-in-aid (GIA) payments to public libraries in FY16 and the financial hardship this has caused for some libraries. Ms. Mellor stated that because of OLIS' lack of a state data coordinator during the FY16 annual report process, the review and processing of GIA applications took longer than usual. OLIS has hired a new state data coordinator and is addressing this issue. Timely processing of GIA applications has been established as a priority and a performance metric for OLIS. Within the next two years, the goal is to reduce processing time so that all GIA applications are processed by October 31.
- ii. Mr. Sloan inquired about the recent placement of a form on the OLIS website for libraries to report [Alleged Non-Compliance with LORI Standards](#) by another library. Mr. Sloan was approached by individuals concerned that this form did not foster an air of cooperation between libraries.

Ms. Mellor stated that OLIS has been made aware of libraries that are not in compliance with the LORI Standards for sharing media, [Section 4.02](#). OLIS implemented a formal online reporting process to address this issue. The online reporting process outlines the measures that will be taken by OLIS to address and resolve reported incidents.

Mr. Viall queried whether library directors had been made aware that the form would be available for the reporting of alleged incidents. Mr. Garcia advised that the issue has been discussed in a variety of meetings attended by library directors, and that library directors should be aware of the requirement in the LORI Standards that libraries may not withhold entire categories of media from ILL sharing, and that the process for resolving noncompliance is included in the Standards.

### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Library Services Strategic Plan: Environmental Scan

Ms. Mellor and Ms. DiMichele are drafting a Request for Proposal for a consultant to assist OLIS with the environmental scan.

#### B. AskRI Services

- i. Ms. Mellor is drafting a Request for Information for libraries to express interest in hosting the State Reference Resource Center (SRRC) contract for 2016-2019.
- ii. AskRI staff is currently surveying libraries about the usage of AskRI databases and library patron database needs.

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Grant in Aid (GIA) Distribution Committee

Mr. Viall will form a committee to review the formula for distribution of state aid to public libraries, and asked Mr. Garcia to chair the committee and invited other members to either join or make recommendations for individuals to be seated on the committee. Members may include individuals outside of the LBRI.

Mr. Viall charged the Committee with two goals: first, to determine whether or not the GIA formula should remain as it stands; second, to make recommendations for an alternate formula. The second goal should be met even if the committee recommends retaining the current formula.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

#### **X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2016, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

**Moved by:** Mr. Garcia

**Seconded by:** Mr. Bucci